

# Pride, not Prejudice



Gypsies and Travellers in the modern world:  
**Challenges and opportunities**



# Introduction

by Rt Revd David Walker Bishop of Dudley

A few years ago, I wrote an introduction for the 'Forgotten Minority: Gypsies and Travellers.' The title summed up the position for the Gypsy and Traveller community. A few years on, with vigorous public debate on providing suitable accommodation and increasing recognition in the mass media, the Gypsy and Traveller community may not be 'forgotten' but is still the focus of much prejudice.

It is encouraging to see that where prejudicial comments are made, they are now more likely to be challenged. So when a political leader writes: *'It is now the turn of other towns in the county to do their fair share,'* there are cries from the public saying: *'There's no such thing as "fair share." This is not some sort of problem that is being carried or placed as some sort of burden; this is part of the council's responsibility to provide accommodation and to do so where it is suitable.'*

It is also important to see how the internet and newspaper blogs can give voice to the Gypsy and Traveller community. As one blogger puts it: *'They don't want us Gypsies, it makes us sick how people oppose new sites just for votes lol'*

Progress is slow, but the article on Houndsfield Lane shows what can be achieved by just doing things in the right way. During the period of major works, Rooftop Housing Group worked with the Gypsies and Travellers to agree design and nature of works, the contractor also worked with the Gypsies and Travellers and the works have been completed with minimum fuss, to a high standard and with huge resident satisfaction.

While Government planning reform is likely to make things harder to create new affordable homes, including accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers, there is a Government grant available.

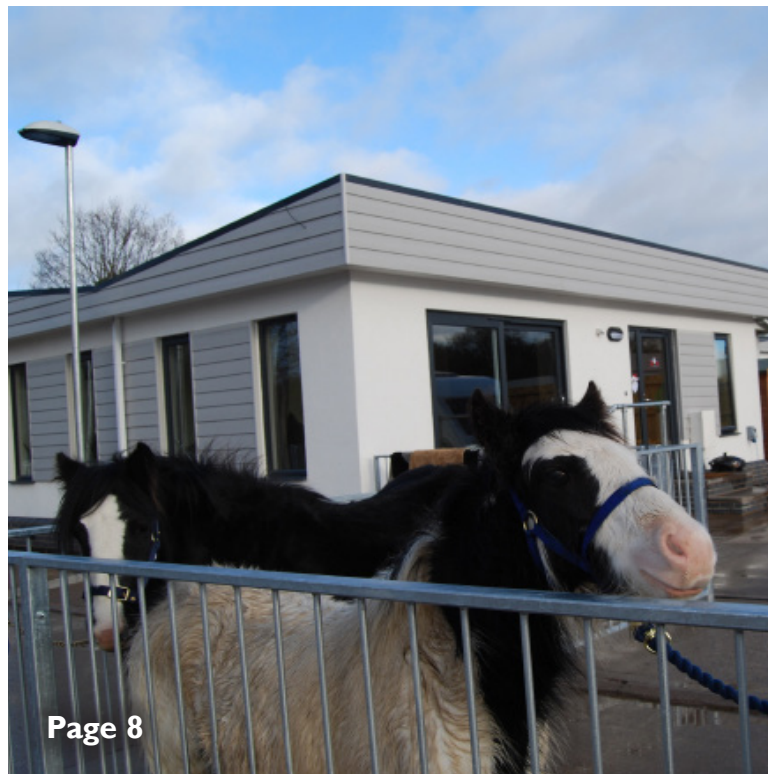
It is up to local housing providers to have the courage and strength of conviction to work with settled and Gypsy and Traveller communities to identify and create or improve accommodation for those who have a tradition and wish to live in a mobile home.



Rt Rev David Walker  
Bishop of Dudley

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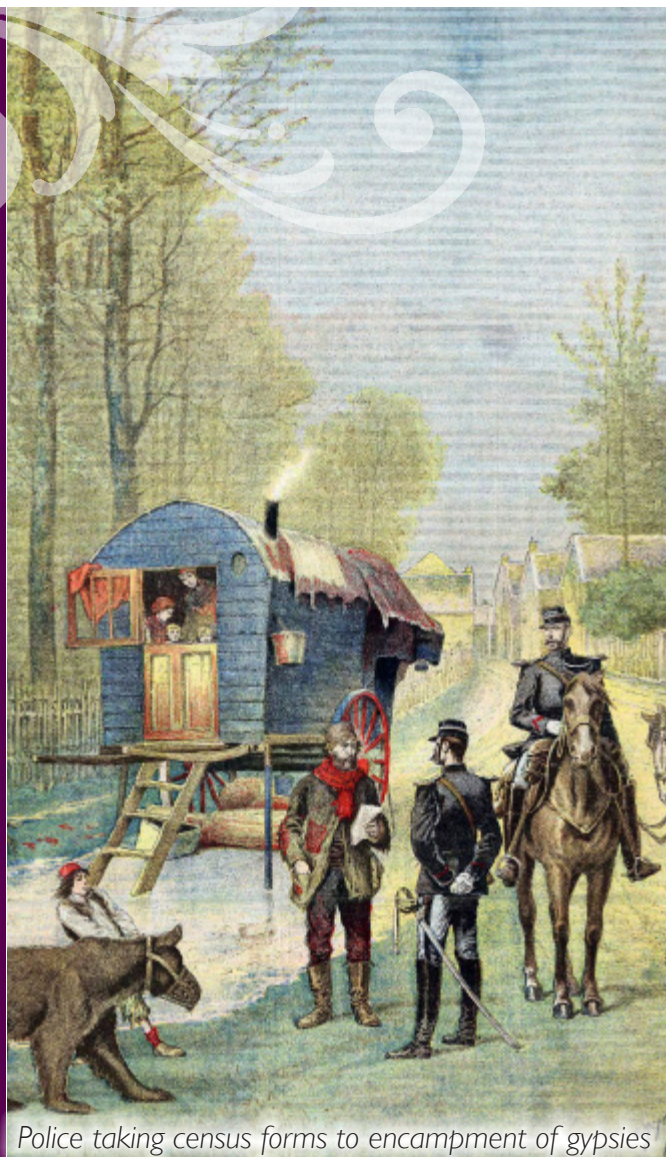
# Who are Gypsies and Travellers?

## Who are Gypsies and Travellers?

Race Relations Case Law recognises English, Welsh and Scottish Romany Gypsies, and Irish Travellers as distinct ethnic minority groups in the UK.

English Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers have the same rights to race relations protection as other recognised ethnic minority groups. Ethnic status is not dependant on mobility, hence why the blanket term 'Traveller' is not always useful.

Despite centuries of persecution – varying from hanging, imprisonment or deportation for merely being a Gypsy in the 16th and 17th centuries, to the constant harassment and difficulty in finding stopping places in the post-war years, Gypsies and Travellers have survived as a separate group with their own unique identity and culture throughout the British Isles.



*Police taking census forms to encampment of gypsies*

## Where did they originate?

It is generally accepted that the first Gypsies arrived on the British Isles at the beginning of the 16th century claiming to have travelled across Europe from Egypt – the so-called “people of little Egypt”.

In fact, their language, Romani, with its similarity to Sanskrit and Hindi, suggests that they originated in North West India. Over time their journey took them through the Middle East, including Egypt, the Balkans into all parts of Western Europe and subsequently on to the USA and even Australia.

## Gypsy or Traveller? Which term is correct?

Over time 'Egyptian' was shortened to 'Gyptian,' and then 'Gypsy,' but because of its increasingly derogatory associations, 'Traveller' has become more commonly used by the Gypsies themselves and the non-Gypsy population.

'Traveller' is a term that is applied to a variety of people and communities. At best the term 'Traveller' is inoffensive, but should be understood as a general label and not a description of a lifestyle or ethnicity.

## What about Irish Travellers?

The Irish Travellers are another travelling community who speak a variety of English and Gammon/Shelta – not Romani. They tend to travel in large groups and regularly return to Ireland.

## Are there other types of Travellers?

There are a number of other Traveller communities not recognised under Race Relations legislation. These might include:

- Occupational Travellers (Fairground families, Circus People, Bargees)
- Seasonal and migrant workers
- New Age Travellers

Many of these groups share a long and varied history, frequently underpinned by patterns of mobility.





Illustration depicting encampment of European gypsies

### Who are the real Gypsies and Travellers?

The debate over the difference between 'real' Gypsies and people living in caravans, who have adopted an itinerant lifestyle, has raged in recent years. With the exception of the New Age Travellers (Hippies) who first took to the road in the 60s, most travellers can trace back their lifestyle over generations.

This debate is perhaps best summed up by the Traveller/Author Dominic Reeve in his book "Whichever Way We Turn"

*"... it would be very difficult to find any absolutely pure-blooded Romanies without a drop of gaujo blood on either side of their families somewhere, although naturally there are many families that are more pure blooded than others..."*

*... In the last resort people are either Romanies or travellers, or they are gaujes." ('Gaujo' means 'non-Traveller' in Romani)*





# Modern day Gypsies

**Since the 1960's, the demise of the horse drawn caravan, as the permanent home for Gypsies, has continued to a point where there are now very few families living in this traditional way.**

A caravan towed by a motor vehicle became the preferred choice after the Second World War. The superior space and facilities of specially designed caravans and their ability to cover longer distances far out-weigh the dangers presented by using a slow moving, horse-drawn vehicle in heavy traffic.

Travelling and finding stopping places (atchintans) has become increasingly difficult and Gypsies today are more often found living on council or private sites, their own piece of land, or even in houses or bungalows. The Travellers' preference is to own their own small site where they can stay with members of their extended family and where they can readily assimilate into the local community.

Too often, councils have built sites which are poorly located – near rubbish tips or away from local amenities. They are often too big to manage to the satisfaction of both the Travellers and the settled community. There are still not enough properly equipped sites for Travellers which results, on too many occasions, in Travellers having to camp illegally.

The consequence of moving to a more settled existence has led to changes in occupation. Throughout their existence Gypsies have preferred self-employment. Now tree and roof work, fascia and gutter replacement, carpet selling, scrap metal collecting, owning caravan sites, driveway construction and buying and selling vehicles and caravans have become the most common occupations.

The demise of the Gypsies' way of life has been predicted since the end of the 19th century. Today, legislation around truck driving and maintenance, Public Order Acts and their impact on camping,





even some local authorities' bye-laws prohibiting door-to-door calling, changes in agricultural work because of mechanisation and the use of immigrant labour, all continue to threaten their future. However, over the years Gypsies have proved remarkably resilient and able to adapt to new challenges.

There is a strong and vibrant culture celebrated at events like Appleby Horse Fair and other well known fairs held at Stow-on-the-Wold and Kenilworth. Stalls selling children's clothing and shoes, jewellery, household items, bedding, glass and china, reveal a variety and style of items seldom seen in high street stores but favoured by Gypsy families.

Gypsies attending Fairs often bring with them immaculately restored and decorated, or new, horse-drawn waggons and flat carts, and increasingly of late, restored trucks and trailer caravans of the type favoured by Travellers in the 50's, 60's and 70's.

Whilst the time when Gypsies travelled the British countryside with their colourful horse-drawn waggons is often seen as some sort of 'golden age,' it was relatively short-lived. It is however clear that despite all the pressures to change their way of life, it is a unique culture which they are determined to preserve.



*Opposite page: Restored 1970's caravan (Stow Fair)*

*Above: Crown Derby crockery on sale (Stow Fair)*

*Below left: Children's clothing stall (Kenilworth Fair)*

*Below right: Stall selling traditional stainless steel and copper containers (Stow Fair)*





# Grand designs

The future of Gypsy and Traveller sites is already here! Houndsfield Lane in Worcestershire has been transformed following a very special delivery of 'pods.'

The site was built by Bromsgrove District Council in 1964 and prior to the recent redevelopment provided 18 residential pitches and seven transit pitches. However, the transit pitches were decommissioned in the 1990's.







One of the finished 'pods' on newly refurbished pitch

The refurbishment and extension of Houndsfield Lane would not have been possible without funding. This funding came through the Homes and Communities Agency under the Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant Programme 2008-11.

As well as refurbishing the 18 existing pitches, it was decided that five new pitches would also be created to help meet the very high demand for accommodation, and one of these pitches would be fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act.

### **What is accommodation on a site traditionally like for Gypsies and Travellers?**

Most Gypsy and Traveller accommodation takes the form of a 'pitch'. A pitch comprises, an area of concrete hard standing, space for one or two caravans and a brick built utility building (that residents usually call a 'shed') housing a kitchen and bathroom. Many families do not cook or use the bathroom facilities in the caravans or static homes, these are reserved for living and sleeping space only. However, in offering choice at Houndsfield Lane, residents are able to connect their caravans to the building's electrical supply, water and the drainage.

### **What is different about the new 'pods'?**

The pods are replacements for the traditional 'sheds', with the added benefit of a living space. Residents have more room and no longer need to move between caravan and building to cook, clean and wash. All the units have fitted kitchens, bathrooms, and living rooms that give residents high quality and energy efficient family space.

### **How was it done?**

There was extensive consultation with the residents to establish the look and function of the new accommodation at Houndsfield Lane.

Off-site construction methods were used and involved in the manufacture and fit out of the steel framed modules within a factory controlled environment, whilst ground works and foundations were prepared on site.

The modular units were then delivered to the site and craned into position. They required connection to mains services and nominal fitting out once delivered and came with the bathrooms and kitchens already installed.

Overall, the project has been a huge success and the residents are extremely happy with the results.



A pod under construction at the factory



# Planning applications

## **New government funding will be used to deliver around 600 new Gypsy and Traveller pitches across the UK.**

A 1999 report by Williams for ACERT, Private Gypsy Site Provision, concluded that whilst 80% of all planning applications for development were approved, 90% of those by Travellers were refused. The success rates at appeal were around 30% as planning officials recognised the need to provide sites for Travellers particularly in areas where council provision was poor.

Providing sites for Travellers so that they can continue to live in caravans, seek employment and raise their children in a way which recognises their culture is the answer and works very successfully in many places – but these success stories are seldom

the ones which are publicised. At the same time the nuisance caused by illegal camping would disappear. If private provision of small sites was encouraged there would be no cost to tax-payers and the impact on local education and health services would be minimal.

For politicians there are no votes in supporting Travellers in their need for legal sites but this should not stop them from encouraging enlightened debate on an issue which will not go away if merely ignored.

### **Rooftop to provide pitches for gypsies**

AN EVESHAM housing group has been chosen to help lead a new scheme which will see hundreds of new pitches delivered for gypsies and travellers. £1.7million has been allocated to provide 38 new units in Gloucestershire. This will see Rooftop Housing Group in Stroud District.

### **Government gives funding for 18 new city traveller sites**

Extra cash to nearly double number of pitches in Worcester





# Worcestershire Gypsy Roma Traveller Partnership

by Rev John Paxton,  
Chair of WGRTTP

Several years ago, a group of managers working in the housing, voluntary and community sectors, came together after recognising that existing work around equalities was failing what was perhaps Worcestershire's largest minority community. With support of their organisations, the managers formed the Worcestershire Gypsy Roma Traveller Partnership (WGRTTP).

The aim of the partnership has been to improve services and opportunities for Worcestershire's Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities living in permanent homes, mobile homes and caravans.

The group set itself three objectives to achieve through joint working with members of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities:

- **Promote a balanced view**  
in the public debate on provision of accommodation and other services to members of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities.
- **Support service providers**  
ensure their services meet the needs of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.
- **Increase understanding**  
and remove barriers to increase partnership working between statutory services and members of the Gypsy, Roma and Travellers communities.

Over the last few years the partnership has worked closely with schools, supported an annual event at Hartlebury Museum to celebrate GRT History Month, produced a booklet 'The Forgotten Minority', organised training events and members of the group have spoken at local events. Members also meet regularly to support each others work in the county.

Current membership include representatives from the local GRT community, police, health, local government, housing associations and training providers.

If you would like more information on the group please call **01386 420 800** or email [gt@rooftopgroup.org](mailto:gt@rooftopgroup.org)



# Education issues

Education is still an ongoing issue for some Gypsy Traveller families. In 1967 the Plowden Report described Traveller children as 'probably the most deprived group in the country.'

Although there have been a number of success stories, overall, Traveller children attainment remains lower than that of other pupils.

Settled children have better access to mainstream education but there is still a fear of being bullied and that the children will be subjected to racist abuse. Primary attendance is usually good but secondary education still remains a challenge for Worcestershire's families. It still remains true that Gypsy boys are more likely to be permanently excluded than any other group.

Traditionally teenage boys work alongside their fathers and this remains the preferred option today. This, along with the belief that the cultural values will not be recognised and respected, means that secondary attendance is much lower than at primary age.



There are currently 1,249 Gypsy Traveller children aged between four and 19 years in Worcestershire, with the majority of them accessing mainstream education and colleges.

For a number of families the fact that the children can read and write means that they have 'all the education they need' while other young people are currently accessing degree courses and think that the only way to improve their life chances is by education.







## Studies have found that the health status of Gypsy and Travellers is much poorer than that of the general population and other marginalised groups

- 39% of Gypsies and Travellers have a long-term illness compared with 29% of age and sex matched comparators, even after controlling for socio-economic status and other marginalised groups.
- Travellers are three times more likely to have chronic cough or bronchitis, even after smoking is taken into account.
- 22% of Gypsies and Travellers reported having asthma and 34% reported chest pain compared to 5% and 22% of the general population.
- Gypsies and Travellers are nearly three times more likely to be anxious than average and just over twice as likely to be depressed.
- Irish Travellers are three times as likely to die by suicide than the general population.
- There is an excess prevalence of miscarriages, stillbirths and neonatal deaths in Gypsy and Traveller communities and high rates of maternal death during pregnancy and shortly after childbirth.

- A high prevalence of diabetes has been reported in Gypsy and Traveller communities, and a lack of community knowledge of the risk factors.
- Studies show that Gypsy and Traveller women live 12 years less than women in the general population and men 10 years less, although recent research suggests the life expectancy gap could be much higher.

## Common challenges faced by Gypsies and Travellers accessing primary care can include:

- Registration. One of the most commonly reported barriers is GPs' insistence on having proof of identity and proof of a permanent address.
- Poor literacy and, for recently migrant Roma communities, poor English, can make it very difficult to navigate the health system.
- Anticipation of discrimination from GP practices or at A&E. As a result, some, particularly those living in bricks and mortar accommodation, will not identify their ethnicity.
- Health professionals lack the knowledge, confidence and expertise about the beliefs and culture of the Gypsy and Traveller communities.
- Those who are mobile have an increased reliance on A&E and walk-in centres, which can lead to problems with follow up and continuity of care.
- Local Involvement Networks (LINks) have not ensured the diversity of representation needed to ensure all members of a community, including Gypsies and Travellers, can have their say or get involved in influencing local services.

The Department of Health will work with the National Inclusion Health Board and the NHS, local government and others to identify what more must be done to include the needs of Gypsies and Travellers in the commissioning of health services.

This information is taken from a report by the  
Department for Communities and Local  
Government, April 2012

# Donation to Gypsy artist

**An artist who uses his talent to inspire young Birmingham and Black Country Gypsies has received a donation by generous workers to help him continue his work in the Traveller community.**

Denis Latham, of the National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups (NFGLG), has received the donation from employees at employment and training experts Pertemps People Development Group (PPDG).

The NFGLG raises awareness of Gypsy rights, planning issues and education for the Gypsy, Traveller community.

PPDG operates a Give As You Earn scheme which each year donates thousands of pounds to charities and other good causes. Employees make a donation to the scheme each month and nominate the worthy causes they wish to donate funds to.

Denis is a well-respected Gypsy artist who runs drop-in art classes in Birmingham and the Black

Country for young Gypsies that have either been in trouble, or are at risk of offending.

He visits young offenders in prisons and owns a vardo (a traditional horse drawn Gypsy waggon) full of art work which he takes to local schools and churches to engage with Gypsies and settled people as well.

PPDG's £250 donation has gone towards buying paint, brushes and other art materials which will help Denis continue his good work. Denis and the NFGLG were nominated for an award by PPDG's Tina Pritchard.

Tina said: *"Denis is a really colourful character and does a fantastic job with young people. He has built a*







Gypsy artist Denis Latham received a donation from Tina Pritchard, of PPDG, watched by PPDG's Vanessa Payne (left) and Gypsy community member Christine at Willenhall Lane Caravan Site, Walsall.

*traditional vardo and is planning to fill it with art work and travel to schools, churches and so on, to showcase his work and to get the young people involved. He is an absolute inspiration for young people and is thoroughly deserving of our support."*

Siobhan Spencer MBE, co-director at the NFGLG, said: *"Denis really enjoys working with youngsters and helping to inspire them. He is very talented and does a fantastic job working with young offenders in prison and also exhibiting his art work to youngsters by visiting them in schools and offering drop-in sessions. He will be absolutely delighted by Pertemps People Development Group's kind donation."*

Founded in the UK, PPDG possesses in excess of 50 years' experience and expertise in the employment and training industry and has supported more than 100,000 job seekers into work in the past decade.

PPDG has a strong community ethos and began working closely with representatives from the Traveller community early last year.

The company makes regular donations to charities and good causes through its award winning payroll-giving scheme, with around two thirds of its employees involved in payroll deductions that benefit others less fortunate in the community. The scheme recently broke the £150,000 barrier, with Denis being its latest recipient.

To find out more about PPDG, you can visit their website [www.ppdg.co.uk](http://www.ppdg.co.uk), find them on Facebook at [www.facebook.co.uk/yourppdg](http://www.facebook.co.uk/yourppdg) or follow them on Twitter by searching for [@yourppdg](https://twitter.com/yourppdg)





**Aaron 'AJ' Bannister is a young Traveller from the Wyre Forest. Despite being just 18 years old, he has a long list of awards, experience and voluntary work under his belt that would put most of us to shame.**

AJ attends Baxter College where he is studying for a NVQ level 2. Using his woodworking skills, he has been volunteering at The County Museum, Hartlebury (part of Museums Worcestershire) to help build a 2/3 size bow-top Gypsy Caravan for display. This work came naturally to AJ who comes from a long line of caravan makers: his grandfathers, Joseph Smith and Percy Hodgkins, also worked on waggon restoration.

AJ also volunteers with the YMCA to help organise and run activities for young people, including street dance and football coaching. During the summer of 2010, AJ spent several months in the USA on a YMCA exchange and helped young Americans improve their football skills.

When not at school or volunteering, AJ plays for Kidderminster Harriers Under 21's team. *'Aaron Bannister showed throughout the half why he was team captain, organising the entire team and encouraging the side when things may not have worked to how they were expected.'* (Kidderminster Shuttle match report)

AJ has received a Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Award for his outstanding contribution to his school and community. AJ was chosen because of his inspirational qualities, demonstrated through his commitment and work in community service.

# Wonderful waggon

**If you visit the The County Museum at Hartlebury Castle you can see a fine collection of original Gypsy and Traveller waggon on display.**

The County Museum at Hartlebury Castle (part of Museums Worcestershire) houses seven horse drawn waggon, also known as *vardos*, each representing a different style and type.

The display includes "Esmerelda", a unique waggon recently donated to the Museum and renovated by expert volunteer Ced Lewis. Built in 1909 for Dr John Sampson, the author of the definitive Romani dictionary, and his fellow members of the Gypsy Lore Society, it was used to visit Gypsy encampments to study Romany folklore and language.

The grandest waggon in the collection is the 'Reading' waggon built by Dunton's of Reading in the 1920s for a wealthy Gypsy family. It is characterised by its ornate carvings and extensive use of gold leaf. The interior design follows the normal pattern but brass rails and lamps and mirrored cupboards make for a luxurious home.



**AJ working on model waggon**

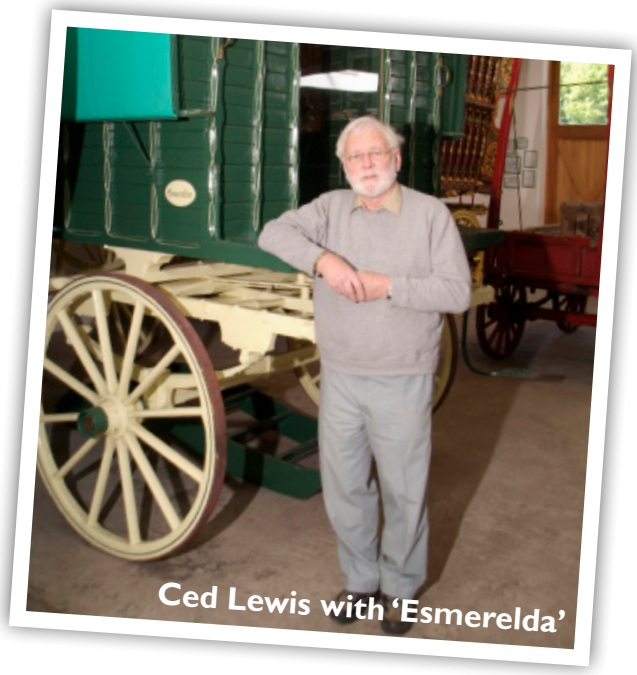


At the other extreme is a more 'rough and ready' 'Open Lot' with its green canvas bow top and front curtains. Built on an old cart chassis, this type would have once been a common site in the Midlands as it was cheap to build and easily pulled by a small horse.

Although few Gypsies still live in traditional waggons, they are popular with settled Travellers who park them outside their homes and use them at traditional horse fairs as a celebration of their past. In recent years to coincide with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month, a special event called 'Travellers' Tales' has been staged at the Museum to celebrate the Gypsy way of life.

If you wish to see the waggons for yourself the Museum is open Tuesday to Sunday and also on Bank Holiday Mondays.

Inside the 'Open Lot' waggon.





Ced Lewis with 'Esmerelda'

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Telephone: 01299 250416  
Email: [museum@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:museum@worcestershire.gov.uk)  
[www.whub.org.uk](http://www.whub.org.uk)



Museum visitors sit outside the 'Dunton Reading' waggon



**There are often misconceptions regarding Gypsies and Travellers. Read on and discover the truth behind some of them.**

## Facts and fictions

**Gypsies and Travellers are outside the law – enforcement of planning and criminal laws don't apply to them.**

Some Gypsies and Travellers set up sites on land they own before applying retrospectively for planning permission. If a site development does not receive planning permission, the council can take action to enforce the law. In the event of damage or criminal behaviour by someone on an unauthorised encampment, the police have civil powers to evict the entire encampment.

Unfortunately this can lead to the mistaken belief that everyone on the encampment has committed a crime, even if only a small number of people on the site were responsible.

**Gypsies and Travellers get special treatment – they get sites where no one would get houses.**

Most Gypsy site applications fail to get planning permission first time around and many are also unsuccessful on appeal.

**Gypsies and Travellers choose to travel – it is their lifestyle choice. If they want somewhere permanent to live, why don't they settle down in a house?**

Many Gypsies and Travellers now live in houses or bungalows rather than follow their social and cultural heritage of living in a caravan and moving from place to place. The move to permanent accommodation is the result of a number of factors – shortage of sites, poor health, old age, educational needs and the pursuit of an occupation needing the space provided by a fixed location. Nonetheless many Travellers will take to the road in spring and summer to visit fairs and carry out seasonal work.

**All Gypsies and Travellers dump rubbish and leave mess for someone else to clean up.**

Unauthorised encampments can be very unsightly. Too often councils fail to provide skips and rubbish collection for fear of legitimising illegal sites. In stark contrast, most private sites are immaculately kept.



### **If we provide sites, we'll just attract more Gypsies and Travellers from around the country.**

Gypsies and Travellers travel for various reasons, sometimes economic and sometimes family related. There is no evidence that provision of a site in a certain area leads to greater demand. However, just as other ethnic groups are not equally distributed around the country, so Gypsies and Travellers are concentrated in certain parts of the country. Councils need to respond to the needs in their communities, however large or small they might be.

### **Gypsies and Travellers who live on permanent sites DO pay Council Tax and other associated charges.**

#### **Gypsies and Travellers contribute nothing to society – they don't pay taxes and are work shy.**

Gypsies and Travellers who live on permanent sites pay Council Tax and other associated charges. Like the settled community, all Travellers pay VAT and Duty on their purchases and are liable to pay income tax on their earnings. It should be noted that Gypsies and Travellers have poor access to services like education and health.

Gypsies and Travellers have a long tradition of self-employment. Working alongside close and extended family members, flexibility is key and so they are capable of pursuing a number of occupations depending on local demand and season. Status in the community is earned through wealth and family reputation, not by living on benefits.

#### **The police fail to back local communities concerned with trespass on private or public land.**

The mere presence of an encampment without any aggravating factors, such as damage to property or anti-social behaviour, should not normally create an expectation that police will use eviction powers. However, if there has been non-compliance with a Notice to Leave or behaviour which breaches the law, eviction can take place. Unfortunately, without sufficient authorised sites, moving people on can be a futile gesture as the cycle of evictions will start again at their next location.



**Many Gypsies and Travellers feel they have no choice but to set up unauthorised encampments...**

**...because there is no other accommodation.**

# Did you know?



In politics, Gypsies and Travellers serve at local and national level as councillors and on committees and have stood for election to Parliament. There are Gypsy MPs and councillors throughout Europe.

Many Gypsies served in the British Army in both World Wars. Records show that two Gypsy soldiers were awarded the Victoria Cross for their bravery.

**Many famous celebrities have Gypsy roots, including the actors Sir Charles Chaplin, Sir Michael Caine and Bob Hoskins.**



**Other celebrities with Traveller ancestry are footballer Eric Cantona and singer David Essex. Even Nobel Prize Winner Mother Theresa and Elvis Presley both had Roma origins.**

There are many Gypsies and Travellers involved in charity work in the community and raising money for good causes. They undertake voluntary work in areas such as education, police and health services.

It is not uncommon to now find Gypsies and Travellers employed as teachers, academics and public sector workers, as well as in the entertainment industry.





# Agency profiles



This publication was funded by the following organisations:



## Rooftop Housing Group

Rooftop Housing Group, a member of the Matrix Housing Partnership, provides over 6,000 general needs as well as specialist housing in the Midlands and South West. Rooftop is recognised as:

- Having a track record of innovation and solving difficult development problems.
- Willing to work with partners to meet local need with care and support.
- Specialist housing including keyworker accommodation.
- Supporting research, including a study into the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers which was published nationally.

0800 0421 800

[www.rooftopgroup.org](http://www.rooftopgroup.org)



## The Community Housing Group

TCHG manage and develop quality affordable homes in Kidderminster, Bewdley and Stourport. We work in partnership with tenants and leaseholders and the business community, schools, health authority, voluntary and statutory agencies to ensure the economic and social well-being of the communities we support.

01562 733 000

[www.communityhg.com](http://www.communityhg.com)



## Wychavon District Council

Working to increase understanding and develop a new approach and policy for our Gypsy and Traveller community, our largest ethnic minority in Wychavon.

01386 565 000

[www.wychavon.gov.uk](http://www.wychavon.gov.uk)



## Vestia Community Trust

Provides a platform for community and partnership activity that improves the quality of life for residents, families and communities in Wyre Forest and Worcestershire. Vestia manages the Worcestershire Family Intervention Project, several neighbourhood partnerships, Tenant Involvement and provides training for long term unemployed.

01562 733 133

[www.vestia.org.uk](http://www.vestia.org.uk)



## The Diocese of Worcester

Committed to working with statutory agencies and voluntary and community groups to help them to reflect on and engage with social and political issues and to develop projects and partnerships that meet the needs of people in our community

01905 20537

[www.cofe-worcester.org.uk](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk)











## Gypsies and Travellers in the modern world: **Challenges and opportunities**

Produced by Rooftop Housing Group

on behalf of the Worcestershire Gypsy Roma Traveller Partnership

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